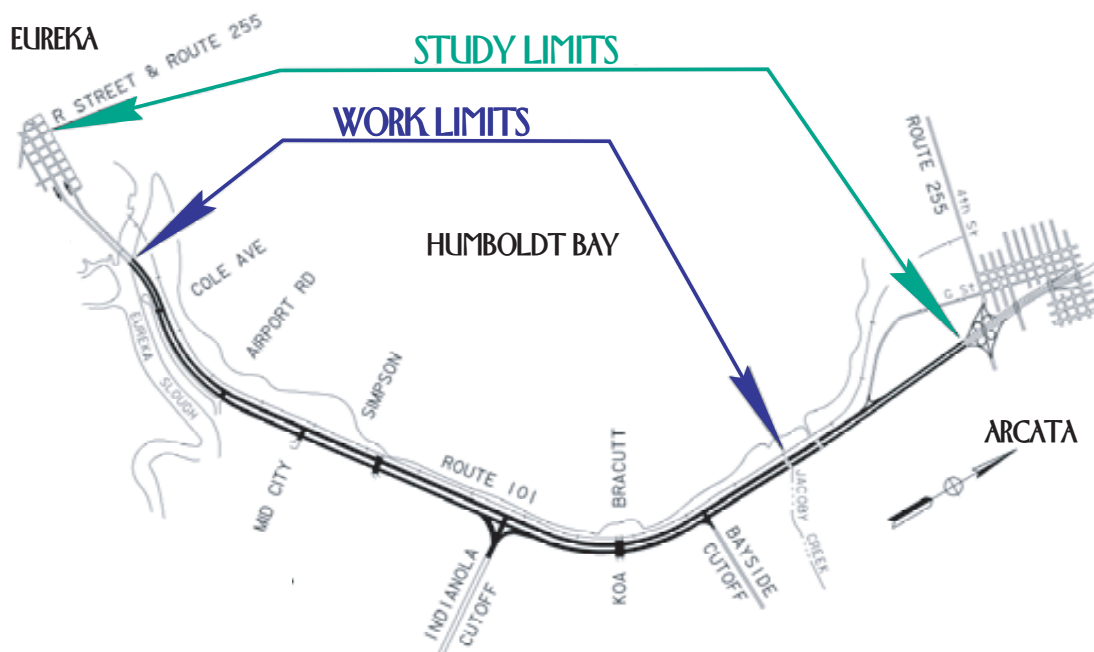




EUREKA TO ARCATA ROUTE 101 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to allow the public an opportunity to review and provide comments on the project design and studies prepared to date.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT?

Caltrans, in cooperation with the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) and the federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has initiated a project to provide improvements to Route 101 between Eureka and Arcata. The proposed project will:

- *Improve Safety at Intersections;*
- *Reduce Operational Conflicts along the Route 101 Corridor*
- *Reduce Delay at Intersections.*

THE NEED FOR THIS PROJECT

- High collision rates at some intersecting access roads within the corridor;
- Left Merge Movements: State and Federal studies have shown that left ramps have collision rates up to four times greater than that of right-ramp exits and entrances and that they are contrary to what drivers expect. Of the total number of rear-end, sideswipe and overturned vehicle collisions occurring at intersections along Route 101 from June 1994 through May 1999, three times as many occurred in the left lane as in the right.
- Increased delays for turning and merge movements at intersecting access points within the corridor as traffic volumes increase.

If the needs listed above are not addressed it can be expected that in the future, as the average daily traffic in the corridor on Route 101 increases from 35,500 vehicles per day in 1998 to an estimated 51,500 vehicles per day in 2031, problems will increase.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- ✓ *Identify Project Need and Purpose & Develop Alternatives*
- ✓ *March 7, 2000 - Public Meeting to Discuss Alternatives*
- ✓ *May 1, 2000 - Project Study Report Completed*
- ✓ *July 1, 2001 - Begin Preliminary Design & Environmental Document*
- ✓ *September 20, 2001 - Public Scoping Meeting Held*
- ✓ *Alternatives Refined and Technical Studies Started*
- ➔ **May 15, 2003 - Public Meeting**
 - January 2004 - Draft Environmental Document Complete
 - January 2004 - Formal Public Hearing
 - December 2005 - Project Report w/ Preferred Alternative & Environmental Document
 - Project Design & Acquisition of Right of Way (Note: programming of funding by the California Transportation Commission will be necessary before this work begins)
 - Plans, Specifications, and Estimates Phase
 - Advertise and Award Contract
 - Begin Construction

ALTERNATIVES SELECTION CRITERIA

To determine if the purpose and need for the project is met, alternatives will be evaluated against these criteria.

Safety Conformance Criteria: Reduce the number of fatal plus injury collisions at each intersection to below the existing Statewide average number of fatal plus injury collisions for traffic volumes projected to the year 2031.

Operational Conflicts Conformance Criteria: No merge movements from the left and no movements crossing Route 101 mainline.

Level of Service (LOS) Conformance Criteria: Maintain a LOS D (minimal traffic delays, speeds tolerable but subject to sudden variation) or better for Route 101 mainline and for each movement at unsignalized intersections.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

No frontage roads or new bridge crossing of the Eureka Slough at 6th Street is being considered due to cost and environmental impacts.

1. Close median crossings (Airport Rd., Mid City Motors, Simpson Timber, Indianola Cutoff, Bracut, and Bayside Cutoff); lengthen right side acceleration and deceleration lanes.

2a. Close median crossings, construct Compact Diamond Interchange at Indianola Cutoff, lengthen right side acceleration and deceleration lanes.

2b. Close median crossings, construct Single Point Interchange at Indianola Cutoff, lengthen right side acceleration and deceleration lanes.

2c. Close median crossings, construct an interchange with a roundabout intersection on Indianola Cutoff, and Lengthen right side acceleration and deceleration lanes.

3. "No Build" - No modifications to the existing alignment or access are proposed. Safety related projects and projects to maintain the State facility would continue. The "No Build" alternative does not satisfy the purpose and need of the project.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A Citizen Advisory Committee was established by Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) and Caltrans for the project. The Citizen Advisory Committee is comprised of 13 members. If you would like additional information regarding the Citizen Advisory Committee or wish to meet with them, please contact the sponsor, Spencer Clifton, HCAOG Executive Director at (707) 444-8208. Trevor Harper is the co-chairperson of the Committee.

OTHER RELATED IMPROVEMENTS

SAFETY CORRIDOR

A Safety Corridor on Route 101 from the Eureka Slough Bridges to Bayside Cutoff was established in May 2002 as an interim solution. *Please drive responsibly, defensively, and courteously.*

COLE AVENUE MEDIAN CLOSURE

A safety improvement project to close the Route 101 median opening at Cole Avenue, southerly access to Jacobs Avenue, and make improvements to the acceleration and deceleration lanes at Airport Road will begin construction May 2003.

CITY OF EUREKA V STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The City of Eureka is developing a project that will make improvements to 4th and 5th Street and V Street. The project is expected to go to construction summer 2004. Further project information is available by contacting Brent Siemer at City of Eureka Public Works (707) 441-4100.

ROUTE 101 ROADWAY REHABILITATION PROJECT

A project on Route 101 from Eureka Sough Bridges to the Arcata Overhead is funded for construction in 2006. This project will include: pavement rehabilitation, acceleration and deceleration lane improvements, widening and rail upgrade on northbound Jacoby Creek and Gannon Slough Bridges, replacement of southbound Jacoby Creek Bridge, removal of fixed objects (such as billboards) from vehicle recovery zone, installing rumble strips, upgrading metal beam guardrail and three beam guardrail, replacement of tide gates, and upgrading lighting.

PROJECT WEBSITE

A project website (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist1/d1projects.htm>) has been established as another way to provide the public project status information. Project information, including Project Newsletters, Value Analysis Study, Environmental Process, and Project Schedule, is available at this website.

COMMENTS?

Please take a comment card and submit any comments on the project by **May 29, 2003**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES, CONTACT:

Ann Jones
Caltrans Public Affairs Officer
(707) 445-6444

FOR PROJECT INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Kimberly Floyd Caltrans Project Manager (707) 441-5739	Deborah Harmon Caltrans Environmental Planning Branch Chief (707) 445-6416
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